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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3855
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1025
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE 0032
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1120
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0820
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0906
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE 1010
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DILI 000045

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [MARR](#) [AS](#) [TT](#)
SUBJECT: TIMOR-LESTE CALM FOLLOWING ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT, PM

REF: DILI 0040

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CLASSIFIED BY: Henry M. Rector, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S.
Embassy Dili, Department of State.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (SBU) Summary. In sharp contrast to the violence and chaos that surrounded the crisis of April - May 2006, Timor-Leste is calm and its institutions are functioning normally on the day following the shooting of President Ramos-Horta and the attack on Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. Although a formal state of emergency is in effect, citizens are moving freely, businesses are open, and there have been no reports of unrest. On February 12, the acting head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) held a briefing to clarify the sequence of events on February 11 and to report on the status of the investigation. The Australian Defense Forces are beginning to augment their contributions to the International Stabilization Force (ISF) and have ramped up their presence on Dili's streets considerably. A visit by Australian Prime Minister Rudd is on track for February 15. End summary.

Timor-Leste Remains Calm

¶2. (U) The day following the attacks on President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao (reftel), Dili and other areas of Timor-Leste remained calm. The country remains under a parliamentary-approved 48-hour state of emergency, which entails National Police (PNTL) and United Nations Police Mission (UNPOL) checkpoints on the periphery of Dili, a ban on demonstrations, a curfew from 8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. through February 13, and an increased police presence at locations deemed to be potential flashpoints.

¶3. (U) The night of February 11 - 12 was one of the quietest on police records, according to UNPOL. On the day of February 12, conditions in Dili were normal. Businesses and schools were open, and there was the usual level of activity on Dili's roads and in its markets.

Ramos-Horta In Serious Condition

¶4. (SBU) POL Assistant spoke to a source close to the President, who said that Ramos-Horta is still in an induced coma in a hospital in Darwin, Australia. He has bullet fragments lodged in a lobe of his lungs and has damage to other internal organs. Late on the afternoon of February 12, he reportedly underwent a third operation.

Investigation Ongoing

¶5. (U) The PNTL's National Investigation Unit, with UNPOL support, is investigating the crime scene at the residence of President Ramos-Horta and the ambush site near the house of Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. The forensic investigation of the President Ramos-Horta's home is taking priority in view of Ramos-Horta's serious condition and because police do not have the capacity to conduct two major investigations at once. Witnesses at both sites are being interviewed. Acting UNMIT head Reske-Nielsen told a diplomatic briefing today that UNPOL and the PNTL would forward preliminary findings to the GOTL and the Secretary General by mid-week, and that he expected the Timorese authorities to issue arrest warrants, perhaps as early as February 13. He said that "security forces" would execute the warrant, with the International Stabilization Force (ISF) providing back-up if a "hard arrest" were necessary. Besides the two killed on February 11, all other participants in the two attacks remain at large and are widely believed to have left Dili and returned to the districts west of the capital.

UNMIT Rebuts Criticism

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¶6. (SBU) According to UNMIT Political Counselor Colin Stewart, Reske-Nielsen called the briefing in part to refute rumors that UNPOL had been slow to arrive at the Presidential compound following the shooting. He said that the call to the National Operations center had come at 6:59 a.m. and that two police units dispatched from Becora police station arrived at 7:15 and 7:18. At 7:20, they were backed up by a Formed Police Unit comprised of Portuguese National Guard. An ambulance transported the President from the scene at 7:25 a.m.

Australia Beefing Up Presence

¶7. (C) Following yesterday's requests to Prime Minister Rudd from PM Xanana Gusmao and Acting President Vicente Guterres, Australian military reinforcements began to arrive to augment the ISF. The frigate HMS Perth is currently patrolling just off Dili, and an ADF infantry company arrived this afternoon. By the end of the week, 70 mixed capability Australian Federal Police will arrive, and will operate separately from UNPOL. An undetermined number of special operations troops are also expected to arrive this week.

¶8. (SBU) According to Australian DCM, Prime Minister Rudd will most likely pay a one-day visit to Dili on Friday, February 15. Ireland's Foreign Minister intends to proceed with his scheduled visit February 20 - 22.

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